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APR 1 6 2004 3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.

09/684,383

Confirmation No. 7142

Applicant

Gertrud HOETTEN

Filed

10 October 2000

TC/A.U.

1646

Examiner

P.M. Mertz

Docket No.

2923-120

Customer No.:

6449

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed 16 January 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Material added has been indicated by underlining (underlining) and material deleted has been indicated by strikethrough (strikethrough).

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.